

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A method for decreasing space requirements during storage of cut potatoes,

which method comprises:

- a. preparing potatoes to be cut for food use,
- b. cutting said potatoes into rectilinear solids of extended length and approximately rectangular cross-section, having two sets of parallel side faces, and wherein a first set of parallel side faces has a width of a first dimension, and a second set of parallel side faces has a width of a second dimension,
- c. arranging said rectilinear solids in close together side-by-side arrays in which one set of said parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned,
- d. stacking said rectilinear solids arranged in close together side-by-side arrays into repeated orderly layers in which said second set of parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned to create a close stacking assembly,
- e. enclosing said close stacking assembly of rectilinear solids in a suitable storage container,

wherein said close stacking assembly substantially minimizes the storage space required for a unit weight of cut potatoes, and minimizes the exposed cut surfaces to minimize any deleterious effects of exposure to air during storage.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of freezing the contents of the container.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of purging any air from the container and filling any interstitial space within said container with an inert gas.

4. A method for preventing breakage during transport of cut potatoes, which method comprises:

- a. preparing potatoes to be cut for food use,
- b. cutting said potatoes into rectilinear solids of extended length and approximately rectangular cross-section, having two sets of parallel side faces, and wherein a first set of parallel side faces has a width of a first dimension, and a second set of parallel side faces has a width of a second dimension,
- c. arranging said rectilinear solids in close together side-by-side arrays in which one set of said parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned,
- d. stacking said rectilinear solids arranged in close together side-by-side arrays into repeated orderly layers in which said second set of parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned to create a close stacking mutual support assembly,
- e. enclosing said close stacking mutual support assembly of rectilinear solids in a suitable shipping container,

wherein said close stacking assembly permits each rectilinear solid to provide support to each contiguous rectilinear solid and in turn receive support from each contiguous rectilinear solid, substantially minimizing the breakage of said cut potatoes caused by localized stresses during transport.

- 5      5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of freezing the contents of the container.
6. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of purging any air from the container and filling any interstitial space within said container with an inert gas.
7. A method for decreasing space requirements during storage, and preventing  
10      breakage during transport, of cut potatoes, which method comprises:
  - a. preparing potatoes to be cut for food use,
  - b. cutting said potatoes into rectilinear solids of extended length and  
15      approximately rectangular cross-section, having two sets of parallel side faces, and wherein a first set of parallel side faces has a width of a first dimension, and a second set of parallel side faces has a width of a second dimension,
  - c. arranging said rectilinear solids in close together side-by-side arrays in  
20      which one set of said parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned,
  - d. stacking said rectilinear solids arranged in close together side-by-side  
arrays into repeated orderly layers in which said second set of parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned to create a close stacking mutual support assembly,

- e. enclosing said close stacking mutual support assembly of rectilinear solids  
in a suitable container for shipping and storage,

wherein said close stacking assembly substantially minimizes the storage space required  
for a unit weight of cut potatoes, and minimizes the exposed cut surfaces to minimize any  
5 deleterious effects of exposure to air during storage, and,

wherein said close stacking assembly permits each rectilinear solid to provide support to  
each contiguous rectilinear solid and in turn receive support from each contiguous  
rectilinear solid, substantially minimizing the breakage of said cut potatoes caused by  
shifting movements and localized stresses during transport.

10 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of freezing the contents of the  
container.

9. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of purging any air from the  
container and filling any interstitial space within said container with an inert gas.

10. An arrangement of cut potatoes for food use wherein said cut potatoes are rectilinear  
15 solids of extended length and have approximately rectangular cross-section with two sets  
of parallel side faces, and wherein a first set of parallel side faces has a width of a first  
dimension, and a second set of parallel side faces has a width of a second dimension, said  
arrangement comprising a close stacking mutual support assembly in which said  
rectilinear solids are in a plurality of close together side-by-side arrays in which one set  
20 of said parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially aligned, and  
said close together side-by-side arrays are arranged into repeated orderly layers in which  
said second set of parallel side faces of approximately equal dimension are substantially  
aligned.

11. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which said width of a first dimension and said width of a second dimension are substantially equal.

5 12. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are selected from the group consisting of: white potatoes, redskin potatoes, sweet potatoes and yams.

13. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are fresh.

14. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are frozen.

10 15. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are raw.

16. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are partially cooked.

17. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the potatoes are cooked.

15 18. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **10** in which the arrangement is packaged in a suitable container for shipping and storage.

19. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **18** in which the package is a plastic  
20 bag.

20. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim **18** in which the package is a carton.

21. The arrangement of cut potatoes of claim 20 in which said carton is lined with plastic.

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